

subject. The book is of value to the urologist as well as to the general practitioner and would well repay considerable study.

While non-gonorrheal urethritis is a rare disease and is frequently mistakenly diagnosed and difficult to treat, it is a condition that responds readily to correct therapy. Harkness' work will make a valuable and satisfying addition to the library of anyone who is occasionally called on to diagnose urethritis of any origin.

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THE PHYSICIAN EXAMINES THE BIBLE. By C. Raimer Smith, B.S., M.D., D.N.B., Philosophical Library, 15 East 40th Street, New York, N. Y., 1950. \$4.25.

Even though this book is not written for the exclusive use of physicians, it is written by one and can be accepted as having a direct application to the broad field of medicine.

It is obvious that the author has a sincere objective in producing this thesis. In the summary he expresses it as follows: "Man stands at the gate of a new age. He hesitates. He questions. Shall he take the Bible with him across the portal as a priceless treasure, or shall he cast it aside as some useless rubbish?"

Further, it is obvious that the material which is presented and the conclusions which are made are the results of the study of a lifetime. Along with many doctors of medicine and men of science he has compared "religion" with "science." Obviously he has had his doubts, but differing from many he was not willing to "cast way" the one in favor of the other as do so many religionists and scientists alike, because of prejudice and ignorance. He has not weighed all the evidence; nevertheless, he has done well and has reached a satisfactory conclusion for himself. This conclusion, the evidence for which is well stated, is that the Book of Books is a "pearl of great price," the concepts of which are not only advisable but also essential to the successful continuance of civilization, if not the existence of the human race.

The first portion of the book touches upon many of the biblical references to medical topics, the relative accuracy of which are supported by comparisons with current scientific knowledge. Nevertheless, the author had the good sense to recognize the Bible as a book the purpose of which is primarily to emphasize essential moral values, rather than to consider it as a treatise on things scientific.

The latter portion of the book covers the true purpose for its publication; namely, to support the concept that the Creator of natural phenomena and the Creator of the ethical and spiritual codes by which man must live if he is to live successfully, is the same God.

The reason why scientists and religionists so frequently disagree is because of prejudices which exist between them. The author emphasizes the fact that such disagreement has long existed, particularly during the Era of Christianity, but that there has never been any real reason except ignorance or the stubborn dogma of certain religious leaders or misinterpretation by the scientist himself.

Even though the writer disagrees with the author of the book on some points, believing he has not adequately correlated scientific evidence with statements made in the Bible in developing some of the opinions which he holds, nevertheless the writer agrees with the author in his opinion that, when all evidence is weighed there exists no difference between biblical concepts and well-substantiated scientific facts which cannot be explained by the inability of human scribes adequately to express themselves on subjects with which they may have been quite unfamiliar.

Regardless of one's current concepts of the Bible and of God and of His relationship to this world, one can read this book with interest and, if the author has accomplished his objective, with profit.

INTER-ALLIED CONFERENCES ON WAR MEDICINE, 1942-1945. Convened by the Royal Society of Medicine; Honorary Editor: Major-General Sir Henry Letheby Tidy, K.B.E., M.D., President of the Inter-Allied Conferences, Lately Consulting Physician to the British Army, Assistant Editor: J. M. Browne Kutschbach, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.; Staples Press Limited, New York, 1950. \$5.00.

This volume will bring a certain amount of nostalgia to those of us who served in the European Theater of Operations between 1942 and 1945. It records 120 of the 220 communications which were delivered at the meetings held at the Royal Society of Medicine in London by the medical services of the Allies stationed in the United Kingdom. The programs which were offered were, in themselves, of considerable interest. The meetings, in addition, will be remembered for the associations which they fostered between American doctors and doctors of other nations.

The book consists of on-the-spot medical war reporting. It is divided into several principal sections. These include general accounts of campaigns, personal experiences of officers in special episodes, the particular experiences connected with D-Day and with German concentration camps, and a variety of special medical subjects. Among these last are malaria, psychological aspects of warfare, the position of advanced surgical teams, infective hepatitis and problems of medical evacuation.

There is perhaps no volume which has assembled as concisely and as well such miscellaneous data on the experience of World War II from the medical viewpoint.

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PSYCHOSOMATIC MEDICINE: ITS PRINCIPLES AND APPLICATIONS. By Franz Alexander, M.D., Director, Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, University of Illinois. W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., New York. 300 pp. 1950.

The psychosomatic approach in medicine has become increasingly popular in recent years. Explanations for so-called psychosomatic disorders are often given, however, in such general terms as anxiety, tension, and frustration. But these do little to explain the physiological and organic changes considered to be the result of chronic psychological conflict. The author of this volume draws on psychoanalytic concepts to elucidate the interrelations between psyche and soma. He obviously has had considerable personal experience in this field, and his contributions to the medical literature are many.

In the first section, the role of modern psychiatry in the development of medicine is elaborated. The descriptive psychiatry of Kahlbaum and Kraepelin and the neuroanatomy and neuropathology of Cajal, Golgi, and Alzheimer and Nissel do little to explain the symptomatology of the so-called "functional" psychoses such as schizophrenia, manic-depressive psychosis and the psychoneuroses. The author considers Sigmund Freud to be the first to establish fundamental dynamic principles of psychological causality, and throughout the volume there is little doubt of the author's psychoanalytic bias. There is considerable emphasis on the differentiation between conversion hysteria and vegetative neurosis. A vegetative neurosis (functional disorders of stomach, bowel, and cardiovascular systems) is defined as the physiological response of vegetative organs to constant or periodically returning emotional states, while a conversion symptom (hysteria) is a symbolic expression of an emotionally charged psychological content. It is repeatedly emphasized that the etiology of psychosomatic disorders, as in other medical syndromes, is multicausal and not either organic or psychological. The author's theory of specificity is utilized to explain how certain organs or organic symptoms are utilized in the explanation of symptomatology in that he considers there are specific psychodynamic configurations characteristic of various vegetative disturbances. This is in